

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Child and Family Services
11 State House Station
2 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel.: (207) 624-7900; Toll Free: (877) 680-5866
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay); Fax: (207) 287-5282

MEMORANDUM

TO: Child Care Providers

FROM: Office of Child and Family Services

DATE: November 18, 2022

SUBJECT: CCDF ARPA Discretionary Fund ECCP® Stipend Award FAQs

In response to a high level of interest in the CCDF ARPA Discretionary Fund ECCP® Stipend Awards announced on November 14, 2022, OCFS is issuing this memo as a response to frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the ECCP® program and the stipends available.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: What are the stipends for?

Congress approved the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) (Public Law 117-2), and it was signed into law on March 11, 2021. This included \$14.99 billion in supplemental Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Discretionary Funds. Maine received \$45.7 million of these Federal funds. The Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) will begin a new initiative to further stabilize and support Maine's child care providers, and continue to place value on the three goals outlined in the Child Care Plan for Maine: increase access, quality, and workforce.

OCFS has allocated \$1,455,000 ARPA CCDF Discretionary funds to incentivize child care programs to participate Maine's Early Childhood Consultation Partnership (ECCP®) program. Programs that participate in Core Classroom Services or Family Child Care Provider Services through ECCP® are eligible to receive stipends. OCFS will issue stipends to a maximum of 220 providers through September 30, 2023, or until funds are exhausted.

Q: What is the ECCP® program?

ECCP® is an early childhood mental consultation service which helps early childhood educators and caregivers of young children ages 0-8 build their skills to effectively respond to the social-emotional needs of young children. ECCP® provides experienced early childhood mental health consultants who work directly with child care providers and early childhood educators to identify and practice strategies to effectively manage challenging behaviors and social-emotional development of young children.

Q: What are some reasons to request consultation through ECCP®?

Consultation may be requested for multiple reasons from managing aggressive behaviors, difficulties with classroom transitions, implementing positive behavior management strategies, introducing social-emotional learning into the classroom or program, helping children understand and verbalize emotions, and building effective partnerships with families, among other reasons.

Q: What types of consultation does ECCP® offer?

There are three types of consultation services available through ECCP®: Core Classroom Services, Child-Specific Services, and Family Child Care Provider Services. Please see the [program brochure](#) for descriptions of each consultation service offered. A brief description of each consultation service is also available on the Maine ECCP® [website](#).

Q: Is ECCP® a mental health treatment service?

No. Although ECCP® consultants are licensed mental health clinicians, they do not diagnose or provide mental health treatment as part of ECCP® services. ECCP® is a short-term consultation service.

Q: How much does ECCP® cost?

There is no cost for ECCP® services to providers or families.

Q: Where is ECCP® available?

ECCP® is currently available in the following counties: Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Hancock, Kennebec, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Washington, and York counties.

Q: Why isn't ECCP® available in my county?

ECCP® has been piloted in eight counties in the state since 2021. Per recent [legislation](#), ECCP® will be expanding statewide after January 2023.

Q: What types of consultation qualify for the stipend?

Core Classroom Services and Family Child Care Provider Services qualify for the \$5000 stipend. Child-Specific Services do not qualify for the stipend.

Q: What types of programs are eligible to receive the stipend?

Licensed child care facilities and licensed family child care providers are eligible for the stipend.

Q: How does my program qualify for the stipend?

Eligible programs may receive a one-time \$5,000 stipend per classroom or family child care program after completing participation in ECCP® Core Classroom Services or Family Child Care Provider Services through September 30, 2023.

Q: What is meant by a completed service?

Eligible programs must complete all service visits in the ECCP® Core Classroom or ECCP® Family Child Care Provider Service up to and including the one-month follow-up visit. The head or lead teacher in the classroom or program receiving the Core Classroom or Family Child Care Provider Service must remain employed by the program and serving as the head or lead teacher in the classroom throughout the service through the one-month follow-up visit. If the head or lead teacher leaves employment or is re-assigned to another classroom prior to the one-month follow-up visit, the classroom or program will not be eligible for a stipend.

Q: How long does it take to complete an ECCP® Core Classroom Service or a Family Child Care Provider Service?

Core Classroom Services involve weekly on-site consultation visits for approximately 10-14 weeks with a one-month follow-up visit to follow. Family Child Care Provider Services involve weekly on-site consultation visits for approximately 8-10 weeks with a one-month follow-up visit.

Q: What if I already completed an ECCP® Core Classroom Service or a Family Child Care Provider Service?

Licensed child care facilities and licensed family child care provider programs who have already completed a Core Classroom Service or Family Child Care Provider Service since January 1, 2021, will be retroactively issued stipends. OCFS will identify programs eligible for a retroactive stipend and contact the program directly.

Q: How do I apply to receive the stipend?

There is no application to complete. OCFS will identify programs that qualify for the stipend and contact the program directly once the program has completed an ECCP® Core Classroom Service or Family Child Care Provider Service.

Q: How do I request ECCP® services?

To request ECCP® services, please contact the ECCP® consultant in your county. The listing of ECCP® consultants with contact information is on the program [website](#).

Q: Who do I contact for more information?

Please contact ECCPProgram.DHHS@maine.gov or call (207) 624-7991.